Decision 26-10-064 October 29, 2026

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) for Approval of the Branch Offices Closure Proposal.	Application 25-05-001

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to December 31, 2026.

1. Background

Public Utilities (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.5(a) provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a ratesetting proceeding within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. The current statutory deadline for resolving this proceeding is November 2, 2026.

On May 2, 2025, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) filed Application (A.) 25-05-001 to request authorization to close the remaining 43 branch offices within its service territory that currently offer customers the ability

to pay their gas bills, seek information about their accounts, and complete other actions related to their gas service, all in person.

The Small Business Utility Advocates (SBUA); the Utility Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Local 123 and International Chemical Workers Union Locals 350c, 478c, and 995c; and The Utility Reform Network filed protests to A.25-05-001 on June 2, June 10, and June 11, 2025, respectively. The assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) granted the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates) motion for party status on June 13, 2025. SoCalGas, SBUA, and Cal Advocates filed Prehearing Conference Statements on July 10, 2025.

The assigned ALJ held a prehearing conference on July 11, 2025 to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary.

On August 18, 2025, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling which set forth the issues, need for evidentiary hearing, schedule, and other necessary matters.

An extension of the statutory deadline is necessary and appropriate to afford the Commission adequate time to deliberate and issue a proposed decision. Therefore, the statutory deadline for this proceeding is extended to December 31, 2026.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may waive the otherwise applicable 30-day period

for public review and comment on a decision extending the deadline for resolving the issues raised in the scoping memo in a ratesetting proceeding set forth in Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5. Under the circumstances of this proceeding, it is appropriate to waive the 30-day period for public review and comment.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Darcie L. Houck is the assigned Commissioner and Carolyn Sisto is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. A.25-05-001 was filed on May 2, 2025.
2. The current statutory deadline for completion of A.25-05-001 is November 2, 2026.
3. A.25-05-001 cannot be completed by November 2, 2026.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline to December 31, 2026 is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

Conclusions of Law

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.50(a), the statutory deadline should be extended to December 31, 2026.
2. The 30-day period for review and comment on this Order is waived.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended to December 31, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated October 29, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN REYNOLDS
President
DARCIE L. HOUCK
KAREN DOUGLAS
MATTHEW BAKER
CHRISTINE HARADA
Commissioners